



Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League: Round 18 Review

Summary:

The final round of the Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League saw Southern and Ettalong United secure the League Championship with an emphatic 7-0 victory over Kincumber in which Tahlor Thackray secured the golden boot with an impressive hat-trick. Umina United booked their semi-final position after emerging with a 3-2 victory in their final round playoff with the East Gosford Rams. Elsewhere, Kanwal secured second position with a routine win over Terrigal United, Gosford City extended their unbeaten run to seven matches, and Toukley rounded out the season with a narrow win over Woongarrah.

Round Eighteen Results:

Gosford City FC	3	0	Kariong United FC
Umina United SC	3	2	East Gosford FC
Kanwal FC	2	0	Terrigal United FC
Southern and Ettalong United FC	7	0	Kincumber Roos FC
Toukley FC	1	0	Woongarrah FC

Gosford City FC 3 vs 0 Kariong United FC:

Goals: Georgi Rudd (GOS), Zoe Arigho (GOS), Jade Bailey (GOS).

With a top-four position already secured Gosford City entered Sunday's final match of the regular season knowing that a win could possibly bump them up into second position and a spot in the major semi-final. A massive 3-2 victory over league leaders Southern and Ettalong United the previous weekend saw Gosford City enter Sunday's clash with Kariong United at Gavenlock Oval full of confidence, hoping to produce a repeat performance of the earlier meeting between the sides this season that saw them record a 10-0 victory.

The finals-bound Dragons did secure a win on Sunday afternoon, however they could not repeat the 10 goal effort they managed earlier in the season, a sure sign of Kariong United's improvement throughout what has been a tough season for the club. Goals to Georgi Rudd, Zoe Arigho, and Jade Bailey secured the three points for the hosts, however it was ultimately not enough to lift them into second position after Kanwal also recorded a win in their match over the weekend.

Gosford City's focus now shifts to this weekend's elimination semi-final with Umina United on Sunday afternoon at Pluim Park. Strangely enough, both Gosford City and Umina will also compete in the elimination final for reserve grade in the earlier match, with first grade kicking off at 2:30pm.

Umina United SC 3 vs 2 East Gosford FC:

Goals: Kate Styles x2 (UMI), Bianca Meiklejohn (UMI), Kasey Tysoe (EGO), Kelly Hogan (EGO).

In arguably the most high-stakes match of the Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League season to date, Umina United and the East Gosford Rams faced off at Umina Oval with the winner taking a finals position at the expense of the loser. Locked on 29 points heading into the match both sides carried contrasting form into Sunday afternoons fixture. After stringing together four consecutive wins to keep their finals hopes alive, the fifth placed Rams came into the weekend as the side in form given that Umina had failed to pick up a win in their previous three.

Umina, however, made the early breakthrough on Sunday afternoon as Kate Styles scored to put her side ahead within the opening few minutes of the match. After conceding so early on, East Gosford began to find their feet in the match as they began to apply significant pressure to the Umina side. Midway through the first half this pressure told, with Kasey Tysoe using her abundance of speed to blow by the Umina defensive line and coolly finish past Sam Fulwood in the Umina goal.

With a draw enough to see Umina hold onto the all-important fourth position due to their superior goal difference, they were content to sit back at times and wait for the visitors to come to them, knowing that East Gosford needed a victory. However, East Gosford were to find a second goal early in the second period after top-scorer Kelly Hogan lobbed the 'keeper to score her 17th goal of the season and, more importantly, place her side temporarily into fourth position.

As you'd expect, Umina responded within minutes as Styles grabbed her second of the match and 16th of the season to set the match up for a grandstand finish. Desperate for a win East Gosford continued to push players forward in search of a third goal with Naomi Abbott seeing two efforts crash back off the cross-bar. Ultimately, the search for a third goal was to be the Rams undoing, with Bianca Meiklejohn finishing off the scoring and East Gosford's season in the final minutes of the match.

After securing their finals position, Umina look ahead to Sunday's elimination semi-final with Gosford City at Pluim Park. The match is a must-win fixture, with the loser eliminated from the finals series. First grade kicks-off at 2:30pm.

Kanwal FC 2 vs 0 Terrigal United FC:

Goals: Hayley Green (KAN), Jennifer Reeves (KAN).

Facing the possibility of slipping outside of a top two position that they'd held for a majority of the season, Kanwal hosted Terrigal United at Wadalba Sports Complex knowing that a win would ensure that they were to contest the major semi-final rather than the minor this coming Sunday afternoon. In what was a fairly even first period both sides managed goal-scoring opportunities, however neither could convert. As the opening half progressed, Kanwal began to assert their dominance on the match however their momentum was ultimately halted by the half-time whistle as the sides remained locked at 0-0.

The second half began in a similar vein to the first as both sides struggled to find the back of the net, however mid-way through the second period top-scorer Hayley Green latched onto a long clearance from Bulls keeper Kim Burke to open the scoring with her 17th goal of the season. The second and final goal of the match arrived in the 83rd minute after Jennifer Reeves found the net with a great strike from outside the penalty area.

The win ensured Kanwal finished the season in second position, locking in a major semi-final match-up with Southern and Ettalong United this Sunday afternoon at Plum Park, of which the winner will advance to the grand-final.

Southern and Ettalong United FC 7 vs 0 Kincumber Roos FC:

Goals: Tahlor Thackray x3 (SEU), Maddy Ryan (SEU), Alana Currie (SEU), Nicole McNamara (SEU), Bec Arnfield (SEU).

Knowing a point would be enough to secure the 2019 Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League 'League Championship', Southern and Ettalong United approached Sunday afternoons clash with Kincumber full of confidence. After falling to just their second defeat of the season last weekend against Gosford City, the Lionesses were determined not to let another opportunity to secure the league championship slip through their fingers as they started Sunday's match in red-hot form. Maddy Ryan opened the scoring for the hosts after just five minutes with her first goal of the 2019 campaign after latching onto a perfectly weighted through ball.

Seven minutes later the hosts doubled their lead as Alana Currie scored her eighth goal of the season after capitalising on a moment of confusion defensively from the visitors to poke the ball into the Kincumber net. A two-goal lead became three on the 20-minute mark as Nicole McNamara scored her first of the season before top scorer Tahlor Thackray, involved in a final day tussle for the golden boot, scored her 19th of the season in the 26th minute to extend the lead to four. Playing a relentless brand of football, Southern were awarded a penalty in the 34th minute, to which goalkeeper Bec Arnfield stepped up and dispatched for her first goal of the season before Thackray added her second, and 20th of the season on the stroke of half-time to cap a remarkably dominant opening 45 minutes as the Lionesses strolled out to a 6-0 lead.

A number of positional adjustments saw a rejuvenated Kincumber side emerge for the second period, with the visitors drawing a number of early saves from Arnfield in the Southern goal. In what was a considerably improved second half performance, 'Roos coach John Manners singled out Jordyn Toms-Wedge and Libby Jones for praise after they turned in impressive second-half performances, however the Kincumber side could not keep their opponents scoreless in the second period. In the 82nd minute of the match Thackray secured her hat-trick and the Central Coast Unity Bank WL golden boot title with another effort from distance to ice what was an impressive 7-0 victory.

Sunday's performance would be sure to put Kanwal on notice, with the sides set to face off in the Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League major semi-final on Sunday afternoon at Plum Park, with the match kicking off at 2:30pm.

Toukley FC 1 vs 0 Woongarrah FC:

Goals: Lily Williams (TOU).

In the weekends only fixture to not harbor any finals permutations, Toukley and Woongarrah met at Harry Moore Oval as both looked to finish above the other come the season's final standings. After managing a 2-0 victory over Woongarrah the last time the sides met back in round nine, the hosts would have been confident of securing a positive result despite Woongarrah's recent good form including their ten-goal hammering of Kariong United last weekend.

Ultimately, a lone Lily Williams goal was to be the only difference between the two sides as the Gunners secured a seventh placed finish, ten points back from a finals berth. Both sides now look ahead to next season where they'll look to re-group and produce seasons that will see them both challenging for a top-four spot in the 2020 edition of the Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League.

Semi-Final Fixtures:

Sun 25/8 2:30pm	Southern and Ettalong United FC	Kanwal FC	Pluim Park 1
Sun 25/8 2:30pm	Gosford City FC	Umina United SC	Pluim Park 3

Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League First Grade Ladder:



CENTRAL COAST FOOTBALL

Central Coast Unity Bank Women's League

Club	GP	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 - Southern & Ett FC	18	13	3	2	+43	42
2 - Kanwal Rovers FC	18	12	3	3	+24	39
3 - Gosford City FC	18	12	1	5	+27	37
4 - Umina United SC	18	10	2	6	+16	32
5 - East Gosford FC	18	9	2	7	+4	29
6 - Terrigal United FC	18	7	2	9	+1	23
7 - Toukley FC	18	5	7	6	+3	22
8 - Woongarah FC	18	5	3	10	+3	18
9 - Kincumber Roos FC	18	5	1	12	-11	16
10 - Kariong United FC	18	0	0	18	-110	0




Golden Boot Standings:

Goals	Player
21	Tahlor Thackray (SEU).
17	Brittini Nicol (GOS), Kelly Hogan (EGO), Hayley Green (KAN).
16	Emma Hurley (WGA), Kate Styles (UMI).
12	Hayley Ballard (KAN).
10	Kate Cheyne (TER).
9	Amber Mangan (UMI), Jessica Dominello (GOS).
8	Michelle Brett (GOS), Alana Currie (SEU).
7	Jordyn Toms-Wedge (KIN), Emily Smith (KIN), Elaine Delaney (SEU).
6	Kayla Vanderfield (TER), Emma Woodger (SEU), Kim Meyer (EGO), Lily Williams (TOU).